

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 14
By Crutchfield

A RESOLUTION to honor The Reverend Melvin Jordan for his
forty years of service to the Mt. Canaan
Missionary Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, The Tennessee General Assembly is proud to specially recognize and
honor inspirational Tennessee ministers, who faithfully serve God, their congregations, and their
communities; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Melvin Jordan, pastor of the Mt. Canaan Missionary Baptist
Church in Chattanooga, is one such exemplary religious leader; and

WHEREAS, Brother Jordan confessed Christ at the age of sixteen in his native state of
Alabama, professed his faith as a member of numerous choirs and quartets, and was ordained
as a Deacon; and

WHEREAS, He preached his first sermon in December of 1961, at the Greater Saint
Mary Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of the Reverend B.S. Ransom, and
moved to his present spiritual home at Mt. Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in August of
1962, a mere eight months after his entry into the ministry; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Jordan supervised the construction of a new church building, which opened in January of 1969, led his congregation through the tragic loss of that church to a fire in January of 1980, and four months later authorized the purchase of a new church property, where the congregation still worships; and

WHEREAS, He continues to further a greater vision for the Mt. Canaan community, having proposed in November 2001 a plan for additional renovations and improvements to the church property; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure, Pastor Jordan has seen the ordination or licensure of seventeen ministers, the ordination of nearly twenty Deacons, and a bountiful increase in the membership of Mt. Canaan Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Brother Jordan is widely known for his evangelism, preaching his faith in a great number of states as far-reaching as Michigan, California, and Nevada, as close to home as Ohio, Kentucky, Georgia, and Florida, in his native state of Alabama, and throughout his home state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, During his brilliant career in the ministry, the Reverend Jordan has recorded three albums, and for nearly twelve years he hosted "The Hour of Power" radio program that reached the spiritual needs of the sick and shut-in in a manner that no other ministry could have; and

WHEREAS, In addition to serving his congregation for the past forty years and his God for so many more, Brother Jordan also served his country for two years in the U.S. Army, with one year of service in Korea; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Jordan was born to the late Deacon and Mrs. Green Jordan in Limestone County, Alabama, where he grew up on a farm; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Jordan attended elementary and junior high school at the Walters Chapel School in his native Limestone County; after moving to Chattanooga in 1950

and working in the foundries to support his family, he graduated from Howard High School in Chattanooga in 1958; and

WHEREAS, Brother Jordan sought to further his Christian education after high school, attending Zion Bible College, where he majored in Bible, and finally graduating from Indiana Bible College in Gary, Indiana, having earned his Bachelor's Degree in Theology; and

WHEREAS, He has received numerous local and state accolades, including being named the City of Chattanooga's Ambassador of Good Will and honorary membership in the Tennessee State Senate; he serves with distinction on the Board of Directors of both the East Chattanooga Community Development Corporation and Soldiers for Christ Outreach Ministry; and

WHEREAS, He has been blessed with a wonderful family: his wife of fifty-two years, Mrs. Maggie Brown Jordan, and four children, sons Ternaë and Michael, and daughters, Gail and Kimberly; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his forty years of service to the Mt. Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, the Reverend Jordan has created and nurtured a community of service to God, and has earned the utmost gratitude from a wonderful congregation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the Reverend Melvin Jordan, thank him for his service to God and the people of this state, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.